

**United States**  
**Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

*Miles City Field Office*

**Cedar Creek Anticline**  
**Habitat Enhancement Project**

Determination of NEPA Adequacy  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0112-DNA

*For Further Information Please Contact:*

Bureau of Land Management  
Miles City Field Office  
111 Garryowen Road  
Miles City, Montana 59301  
406-233-2800

BLM





**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Cedar Creek Anticline Habitat Enhancement Project  
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0112-DNA

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**A. BLM Office:** Miles City Field Office      **Lease/Serial/Case File No.**

**Proposed Action Title/Type:**

**Location of Proposed Action:**

**Wibaux County Township 11 North Range 57 East Section 2 (ALL)**

**Wibaux County Township 12 North Range 57 East Section 34 (SE1/4)**

**Fallon County Township 11 North Range 58 East Section 30 (W2)**

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Miles City BLM proposes to treat ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain juniper encroaching into sage-grouse habitat in above locations, through mechanical treatment and/or hand thinning. Mechanical treatment would include the grinding/shredding of material by a wheeled or track mounted vehicle, either hydraulic or PTO driven with cutter head to alter vegetation. Hand thinning would include individuals with chain saws cutting trees off just above the ground, then lopping and scattering the material. Work would be completed when the use of equipment would result in soil rutting of no more than four inches. Heavy equipment would be limited to slopes of less than 40 percent, unless work can be completed without rutting or surface disturbance. In some spots, such as riparian areas, areas over 40 percent slope, areas where surface flow-lines resulting from energy development are present or where encroachment concentrations are low, hand thinning will be the preferred treatment. The proposed project is within a VRM Class IV management objective. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements. No new roads or trails would be constructed to complete treatment. However, any off road vehicle tracks created by wheeled vehicles, would be signed by fire personnel so additional recreationalists do not mistake these tracks as new trails. Treatment would not take place between March 1 and June 15 to protect sage-grouse nesting habitat from disturbances. Treatment would not take place between April 15 and July 15 in order to minimize impacts to migratory birds while complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. All or part of the proposed action area may be treated, dependent upon funding. Action would take place following the signing of the FONSI/Decision Record.

**Applicant:**

**United States Department of the Interior; Bureau of Land Management; Miles City Field Office**

**County:**

**Wibaux and Fallon**

**DNA Originator:**

**Justin Hanley**

**B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans**

LUP Name\* Big Dry RMP ROD

Date Approved: 1996

LUP Name\* \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved:

Other document\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved:

Other document\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved:

Other document\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved:

\*List applicable LUPs (e.g., Resource Management Plans or applicable amendments).

\*\*List applicable activity, project, management, water quality restoration, or program plans.

☐ The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

☒ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions. This proposed action is in conformance with the Big Dry RMP ROD approved in 1996. On page 8 of the Record of Decision, it states "Forestlands in the planning area with 10 percent or more canopy cover per acre are managed for the enhancement of other resources, not for the production of forest products or sawtimber."

**C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2010-0266-EA [MCFO EA Final\WILDLIFE\2010\CCA habitat enhancement project minus north sections.doc](#)

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.  
Cedar Creek Anticline Habitat Enhancement Project 2010

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standards assessment and determinations, and monitoring the

report).

Cultural Report MT-020-13-116 and MT-020-12-235

#### **D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria**

**Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?** Yes, the current proposed action is the same action of treating ponderosa pine and Rocky Mountain juniper encroaching into sage-grouse habitat in the same locations, through mechanical treatment and/or hand thinning. This action was analyzed in the previous CCA Habitat Enhancement EA (DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2010-0266).

- 1. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?** *Yes, DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2010-0226-EA analyzed essentially the exact same proposed action and considered a No Action alternative.*
- 2. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?** *Yes- However, additional timing stipulations will state that treatment will not occur between April 15 and July 15 of any given year in order to minimize impacts to migratory bird species. The additional timing restriction will have little impact on the overall project and is adequately analyzed in the referenced EA.*
- 3. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?** *Yes- Conifer encroachment within the proposed action area has led to a reduction in available habitat for sage-grouse. Such expansion throughout the historic and current range of sage-grouse has displaced sagebrush which is vital as cover and forage. Through mechanical treatments and/or hand thinning of conifers, we strive to maintain the distribution and integrity of the sagebrush community by managing sagebrush in a manner that results in improved health and no net loss. This goal is consistent with that addressed in the Management Plan and Conservation Strategies for Sage Grouse in Montana (2005) and the BLM National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (2004).*
- 4. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the**

**current proposed action?** *Yes, the impacts analyzed in the DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2010-0266-EA are the same as for the current proposed action. That document analyzed site specific impacts and cumulative impacts on adjacent lands with the same habitat types as this proposed action area.*

6. **Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?** *Yes, the existing analysis is adequate. There is no new information available. The proposed action represents the same analysis area as the existing NEPA document.*
7. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?** *Yes, the public and interagency review of the existing NEPA document is adequate for the current proposed action.*

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title	Resource Represented	Initial/Date
Doug Melton	Archeologist	Archeology	DM 03/07/13 Cultural Reports MT-020-12-235 and MT-020-13-116
Jesse Hankins	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife	<b>JCH 3/7/13</b>
Dena Lang	Outdoor Recreation Planner	VRM	DJL 3/8/13



7/22/2013

\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**F. Mitigation Measures:** List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

## **CONCLUSION**

[X ] Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this box cannot be checked



7/23/2013

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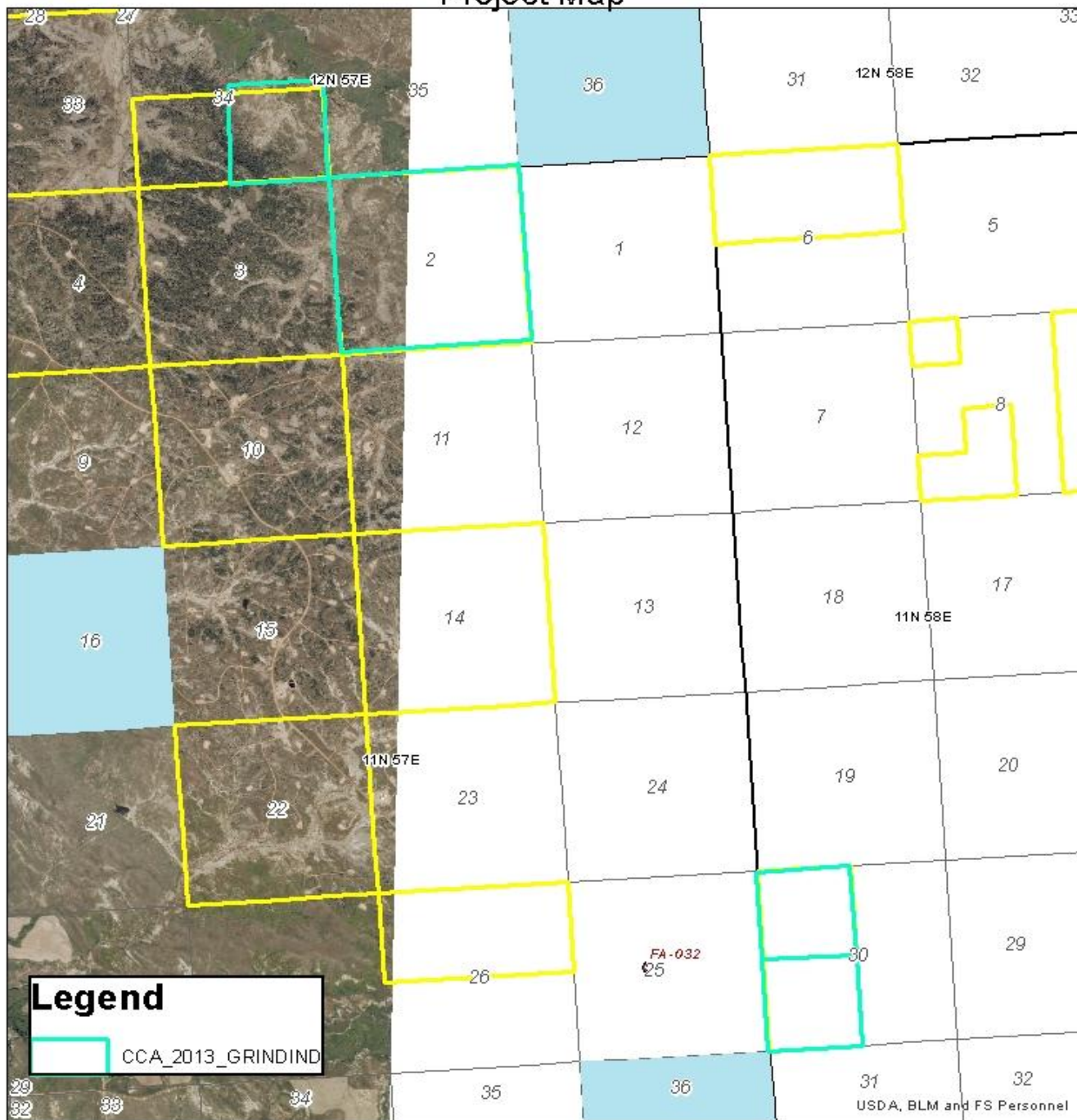
Todd D. Yeager  
Field Manager  
Miles City Field Office

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Date



# Cedar Creek Anticline Project Map

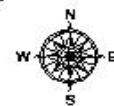


Justin Hanley  
April 8, 2013  
P:\veg\td\cca\_southpine

Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Albers  
Geographic Coordinate System: GCS North American 1983  
Datum: D North American 1983

1:46,520

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Miles



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

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